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External Door Handle Mainly Intended for Vehicles
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The invention relates to an external door handle for vehicles having a handle, arranged on the outer side of the door and being at least partially hollow, wherein the handle comprises at least one U-shaped shell whose U-space serves for receiving the electronic components, and wherein in the connected situation the U-shaped shell is spanned at the visible side by a C-shaped front strip and is anchored thereat ~~of the kind described in the preamble of claim 1 (DE 197 45 149 A1).~~

2. Description of the Related Art

The known handle is provided with a hollow space for receiving electronic components. For this reason, the known handle was configured of two shells comprised of a C-shaped base shell and a C-shaped cover shell connected with the leg ends of the base shell. A disadvantage of such an arrangement is that the terminal snap-on connection of the shells does not provide a sufficient strength for the use as a door handle and that on the front side a contact seam is formed which is visually disruptive because at this visible location manufacturing tolerances that are present become particularly obvious. Moreover, this seam also provides the possibility that dirt can deposit on the front side and that moisture can penetrate into the interior space between the shells so that the components therein are impaired in their function. Also, the embedding of the electronic components in the upright inner shell by means of a synthetic resin is not a permanent solution because the resin will begin to creep over time.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the invention to develop a reliable external door handle of the aforementioned kind ~~mentioned in the preamble of claim 1~~ which prevents the aforementioned disadvantages and generates an especially good and, if needed, detachable connection between the two shells. This is achieved according to the invention in that the two C-end sections of the front strip engage an additional circumferential area of the U-shaped shell from above or from below and in that the electronic components are encapsulated water-tightly in a carrier open at the top by the ~~measures defined in claim 1 which have the following special meaning.~~

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The invention however is also of special importance when, ~~in a modification according to claim 7,~~ the handle is comprised of two shells, i.e., a U-shaped base shell and a cover shell between which the hollow space is formed. In this case, the C-shaped front strip acts like a clamp which presses the cover shell against the U-shaped base shell. This clamp-like connection is provided in addition to the usually already present connections between the two shells. In the case of this clamp connection of the two shells the contact seam between the two shells at the visible side is covered in any case. Even though this contact seam is still present, the access of soil or moisture into the interior of the space between the shells is made significantly more difficult. A type of labyrinth course is present. The detachable connection, if needed, is provided as a result of the C-ends snapped into place in the grooves at the top and bottom sides.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further measures and advantages of the invention result from the dependent claim, the following description, and the drawings. In the drawings, the invention, in the form of two embodiments, and the prior art are illustrated. It is shown in:

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DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the drawings only the bracket-shaped handle 10 of the external door handle appearing on the external side is illustrated. This handle, in the illustrated embodiment a so-called "pull handle", is moveably supported with its two handle ends 11, 12 in a base part, not illustrated in detail. This base part is generally provided on the inner side of the door or of the skin of the door. In addition to the handle 10, as illustrated in dash-dotted lines in Fig. 1, a so-called "cylinder column" is provided in which a closing cylinder can be received, if needed. The cylinder column 13 does not take part in the movement of the handle 10.